St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP 16035 CO. RD. U ◆ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship ◆ Stewardship ◆ Mission

March 8, 2026

VOL. 92 NO. 10

Pastoral Vacancy
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961
School Office: 419-598-8702
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Guest Preacher: Rev. Matthew Buse
Order of Service: Matins *LSB pg. 219*
Hymns: **531 ~ 825 ~ 761**

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WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness and song, prayer and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. May God richly bless your worship today! Please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you, and drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family.

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SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Sadie Bickel, Emma Damman *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers *Ushers* ✠
✠ Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen *Altar Guild* ✠

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS – It's time again to order Easter flowers. We are now taking orders for the various flowers to purchase "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone special in your life. Pink order forms were inserted in last week's bulletin and are available on the Narthex table. Drop your order form and payment (to St. John Lutheran Church) into the container on the narthex table, or return it to the church office. **Order deadline is end-of-day Wed., March 11th** (can be brought to the Wednesday evening service).

THE SPRING LWML QUARTERLY is available in the tract rack for any ladies to pick up a copy. *There are also a few leftover copies of the winter quarterly behind the new ones— help yourself!*

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE: The Ohio District has received our Convertible Vicar application. Our paperwork is all set for Spring placement; now we wait to hear back at the end of April.

In God's House This Week		*Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com*
Date	***Time***	***Activities***
TODAY	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM 1:00 PM	**Worship Service with Communion Following** Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "the LAMP"; Confirmation class meets until 11:15 Gerald BusyFingers 4-H Meeting
Mon.	10:00 AM	Ladies' Bible Study
Tues.	**8:35 AM** 6:00 PM	**School Chapel** Church Council Meeting
Wed.	**7:00 PM** 8:00 PM	***EASTER FLOWER ORDERS DUE*** **Midweek Lenten Service;** *Offering: Worship Anew* *Guest Preacher: Seminarian Josh Gerken Organist: Elaine Buenger* *Acolyte: Brynnleigh Kehnast* *Ushers: Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop* *Altar Guild: Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen* Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 2:15 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast Pi(e) Day with Prayer Pals
Sun.	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM	**Communion Service** Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "the LAMP"; Confirmation class meets until 11:15

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES – Please contact **Pastor Kramer** at 567-277-1339 with any emergency pastoral care requests.

MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- *Melba Elling* and *Norma Damman* at Genacross, Napoleon
- *Rozella Gruenhagen* and *Bob Nemoyer* at Vancrest, Holgate
- *Lois Arps,* at Genacross – Assisted Living, Napoleon
- Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost*, *Leona Durham*, and *Marlene Showman*
- *Brenda Elling, Anne Rausch,* and *Julie (Kern) Patterson* for health concerns related to cancer
- *Stan Gerken* and *Rev. Ken Schroeder* for health concerns
- Military: *Eric Maassel, Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Jordan Lange, Joshua,* and *Kyle*

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	$11,710.59	$500.00	$961.54
Rec'd 03/01/2026	$14,403.00	$185.00	$210.00

ATTENDANCE: 205

Lent 1: Attendance - 71; Contributions for *CPC Women's Health Resource* - $1,915.00

VENMO IS HERE! Exciting News…St. John now accepts donations via Venmo! If you need internet access, use our guest Wi-Fi **SJL Open** with the password **sjleagles##** Then scan the QR code to visit our donation page.

2025 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT LAST CALL! – If your committee/organization has not turned in its information yet, be sure to get your reports to Leah Saylor (churchsecretary@sjl.org) as soon as possible. Please also notify the church office of any changes to your directory listing.

LADIES, JOIN US FOR A LENTEN BIBLE STUDY! – We will meet in the Church Cry Room at 10 a.m. on 4 Mondays in March (Mar. 2nd thru Mar. 23rd). The topic is *The Women at the Cross*.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY – Men's Bible Breakfast will meet on Thursday mornings in Lent at 6:30 AM. It's a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and the good Word!

MIDWEEK SERVICES – Join us each Wednesday in Lent at 7 p.m. Seminary Student Joshua Gerken will preach a series on some of the traits of Jesus.

- March 11- "Humble Savior" | offering to benefit *Worship Anew*
- March 18- "Forgiving Savior" | offering to benefit *Lutheran Hour Broadcast*
- March 25- "Courageous Savior" | offering to benefit *Filling Home Napoleon Campus*
- Maundy Thursday (April 2), Good Friday (April 3), and Easter (April 5) services will be led by Rev. Matthew Montgomery, with offerings going to the *St. John Home Fund*

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – Each year, we appoint three groups of members to help do a "spring clean" of the church. **This year's list is available on the narthex table. Specific dates and times will be announced in the coming weeks, so if your name is on the list, please keep an eye out for the bulletin announcements!** If you feel you are not physically able to help with the cleaning or have another reason you'd like taken off the list, please let the church office know, so we can make a note of that. If you've participated before, thank you! If this is your first time, we are excited to have you be a part of it. This is a great opportunity to serve the church while also enjoying a time of fellowship with those in your group.

MISSING COAT – Did someone take the wrong coat home on Sunday, February 22? It was a men's black wool dress coat with a button closure. There was a black coat with a zipper closure left on the coat rack in the back of the church. Please check to see if you took the wrong coat home.

LSGO WINDOW STILL OPEN – It is tax time and not too late to make a donation to the LSGO (Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization). Your donation will provide scholarships to St. John students K-8. You will also have a dollar for dollar reduced state income tax liability up to $750 per filing individual or $1,500 as a couple. You make the donation, your tax dollars come back to you, and the donation goes to a student at St. John. It will cost you nothing out of your pocket to make a difference! Please call Tracy at 419-598-8702 or email her at tgermann@sjl.org with any questions.

2025 END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2025 individual offering totals (yellow sheets) are available on the narthex table. These will also be printed in the Church Annual Report. We hope this helps those members in need of this information for tax purposes. If you have any questions on your yearly contribution information, please call Financial Trustee Ryan Bostelman 419-770-2029.

THRIVENT CLIENTS – Don't forget to direct 2025 Choice Dollars® prior to 3/31!

From the **Classroom** to the **Congregation**

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School

PI(E) DAY WITH PRAYER PALS – You are invited to come to the cafeteria at St. John and enjoy a piece of PIE with your special student Prayer Pal on **Thurs., March 12th at 2:15 p.m.** National Pi Day recognizes the mathematical constant π, also known as pi. The first three and most recognized digits are 3.14, thus it is celebrated on March 14. Pi is the ratio between the circumference of a circle and its diameter. You don't have to understand the math concept because the day is celebrated by mathematicians and pie lovers alike! We all understand PIE! Cherry, apple, pumpkin, banana cream ... For more details or with questions, please contact *Bonnie Niermann* (bniermann@sjl.org). The students will be thrilled to have you join us!

A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL – The last few weeks have been packed with fun and meaningful moments here at St. John! We hosted our first LEGO Masters' Challenge, and what a fantastic evening it was! Families and students wowed us with their creativity, building imaginative forms of transportation out of LEGOs. Thank you to our wonderful judges and to all the families who joined in to make the night such a success.

Our students also enjoyed a special author visit. After reading *A Boy Called Bat* by Elana K. Arnold, we traveled to Napoleon Elementary School to join Napoleon students and students from St. Augustine Catholic School for a presentation with the author herself. She shared about her writing process, introduced us to her books, and answered thoughtful student questions. It was a wonderful shared learning experience!

Last Sunday, we hosted our annual Open House. Participants had the opportunity to explore the amazing work happening in our classrooms, enjoy activities in the gym, and see what makes St. John Lutheran School so special. Thank you to the School Board for providing a delicious pancake breakfast. What a great day to share fun and fellowship with both church and school families. We're thrilled by the number of new families who have shown interest in St. John.

Miss Tracy Germann

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT EGG CARTONS for the organization "Together We Can Make a Difference." There is a collection box in the Narthex for clean, 12-count only egg cartons. Thank you!

AREA EVENT

- The **CPC Women's Health Resource** is hosting its annual Spring Benefit on Tues., April 14th at 5:30 pm in Archbold. There will be testimonies of God's handiwork, a keynote speaker, a meal, and opportunities to support the ministry. Registration is required. For more info, search "CPC Women's Health Resource" on Facebook, or call (419) 636-5692.

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Thought for the Week…

Love people; use things. Not vise-versa.